## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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:	Examiner: J. Culler
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:	Group Art Unit: 2854
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)	December 9, 2003
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Commissioner for Patents

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

## **Introductory Comments**

Prior to examination on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows.